

Instructor: Brett R. O'Bannon
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E-mail: bobannon
Phone: x4157

Office Hours: by appointment and
Mon & Wed 1:00-2:30
Tuesday 1:00-2:30

POLS 150 COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Bienvenue, willkommen, benvenuto, baasunu. Welcome to your introduction to comparative politics. In the next 15 weeks, we will explore several of the key concepts, theoretical issues, institutions and problematiques of interest to students of politics as they manifest in countries and regions across the globe. Some of you might have a basic familiarity with American politics. Some might even have taken a course in American government. Neither is required to do well in POLS 150. It is, however, a central aim of this course, indeed of this subfield of Political Science, to impart to you a better understanding of politics in your own country. We do this, in part, by looking at how things are in others. As Rudyard Kipling said so well in his ode to the Union Jack, "And what should they know of England who only England know?"

The major objectives of this course include:

- To introduce to you the issues, concepts and approaches to political analysis in this subfield of Political Science
- To gain a better understanding of the nature of politics, its ubiquity, its influence on people's lives and its capacity to transform them
- To observe what is happening "out there" and to equip you with the analytical and theoretical tools to make better sense of it
- To gain a rudimentary understanding of the very different ways in which political systems are organized around the world and the very different experiences of people in them

Please note.

I reserve the right to alter the syllabus during the course of the semester when deemed necessary to meet course needs and objectives. The course does not rely on a central textbook. One of the advantages of this approach is that we can tailor our reading list as we proceed through the semester to accommodate significant developments as well as any need to adjust our pace.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are four areas of graded performance.

Class participation (15%) We seek to construct a discourse in this class. We cannot do so if you do not participate. You cannot participate if you do not attend class. Therefore, if you miss class the class discourse suffers. Thus your grade will suffer.

You get two missed classes free of penalty. Use them for doctors' appointments, mental health days or for some much-needed sleep. After two absences, however, I begin to reduce your participation grade – regardless of how much you participate

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while in class. For each additional absence after two you lose three percentage points of your 15% class participation grade.

Consider this. If you participate at an 'average' rate you will receive 11.5% in participation. If you miss three classes, however, you will receive 8.5%; 5 = 5.5%; 6=2.5%; 7(or more) = 0%.

Your views on the issues matter. Most importantly, your *informed* views matter. What I mean by this is that successful class participation is that which reflects a familiarity with the material for which you are responsible (the assigned reading). There is a considerable difference between speaking up in class and "participating." Participation in the class is worth 15% of the final grade. Please come to class and come prepared to ask and answer questions.

Quizzes/reflective essays: (15%)

There will be a number of quizzes given throughout the semester. These might include both in-class and 'take home' quizzes. The latter will be short (1-2 page) reflective essays on a section of the reading or on an event in the media we have taken notice of. We are reading *The Guardian Weekly*, so also expect quiz questions related to its key stories.

Tests/analytical essays (40%)

There is at least one test and an quasi-optional final examination. The first test is scheduled for September 25 (20%). As we approach October 27 you will begin to prepare for either a second examination or a writing assignment in which you will employ concepts learned in section II (20%). The decision to opt for a writing assignment (my preferred choice) will be based on my determination of how well you appear to have been managing the reading. The reading assignments in this class are moderately heavy and are moderately difficult (with some variation across readings, of course). If it seems that, as a class, you have managed well enough to dispense with an in-class test, we will proceed with a more interesting method of assessment.

Final examination or final paper (30%)

Throughout the semester you will have taken in-class quizzes, a test, and you will have written a reflective analytical essay or two. You will be free to choose the form of final assessment that appears to work best for you. That is, if you prefer you can take the final examination in-class as scheduled in the final examination schedule. Or, however, if you prefer, you can submit at the time of the final examination a paper that will respond to a prompt asking you to employ concepts and theories of comparative political analysis to a case or a problem I will choose. Either way, the final assessment is worth 25%.

Note. In all your writing you are required to properly cite all your sources employing the style of the American Psychological Association (APA) or the American Political Science Association. For more information on how to use the

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APA, consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Fifth Edition or visit [APA Style.org](http://APAStyle.org) or what you might find even more helpful. Failure to properly site sources of information is a violation of the academic integrity policy. (For more information on that policy see below)

The Guardian Weekly

We will subscribe to the British weekly newspaper, *The Guardian Weekly*. The subscription begins the second week of class and runs until the end of November.

Your student account will be charged approximately \$31.60.

8/26-8/28		<p>Opening Gambit</p> <p>Rachman "The Disunited Kingdom"</p> <p>Moore "What Should They Know of England who only England Know?"</p>	<p>Bogdanor, "The Crisis of the Constitution: The General Election and the Future of the United Kingdom"</p>
8/31-94	<p>Comparative Political Analysis</p> <p>Dahl and Stinebrickner, "What Is Politics?" and "Comparing Political Systems"</p> <p>Marion-Young, "Violence against Power" (pp: 251-262)</p>	<p>Film</p> <p>Attending American Political Science Association Conference</p>	<p>Film</p> <p><i>Attending American Political Science Association Conference</i></p>
9/7-9/11	<p>The State</p> <p>O'Neil, "States"</p> <p>Horton, "Conflict in Michoacán: Vigilante Groups Present Challenges and Opportunities for the Mexican Government"</p>	<p>The State (Failure)</p> <p>Rotberg, "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure"</p> <p>Chege, "Sierra Leone: The State that Came Back from the Dead"</p> <p>See also the Fragile States Index here: http://fsi.fundforpeace.org/</p>	<p>The State</p> <p>Fukuyama, "The Imperative of State-building"</p>

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9/14-9/18	<p>Regime (and Change) Lawson, "Conceptual Issues in the Comparative Study of Regime Change and Democratization" (only pages 183-188) Schmitter and Karl, "What Democracy is and is not" Cook, "Mubarak Still Rules"</p>	<p>The State and the Regime Dahl, "What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require" Lipset, "Social Requisites of Democracy Revisited" Mazo, "What Causes Democracy?"</p>	<p>Regime Type: Personal Rule/Neopatrimonialism Jackson and Rosberg, "Personal Rule: Theory and Practice in Africa"</p>
9/21-9/25	<p>The Nation, Nationalism and Ethnicity Anderson, "Imagined Communities" Muller, "Us and Them: The Enduring Power of Ethnic Nationalism"</p>	<p>Civil Society Putnam, "Bowling Alone" Carrothers, "Civil Society"</p>	<p>Test 1</p>
9/28-10/2	<p>Electoral Systems Israeli Election Coverage (five short NYT articles) IDEA, "Overview"</p>	<p>Electoral Systems IDEA, "The World of Electoral Systems" Norris, "Electoral Engineering"</p>	<p>Electoral Systems: Gallagher, "France: Stacking the Deck"</p>
10/5-10/9	<p>Party Systems Lipset, "The Indispensability of Political Parties" Pollock, "The German Party System" (note the date on this article!)</p>	<p>Party Systems Cappocia 2002, "Political Consequences of Electoral Laws: German System at Fifty" Please also see Der Spiegel's Guide to German Political Parties (link on Moodle)</p>	<p>Party Systems Carbone, "No Party Democracy" Ross, "Would Uganda's Museveni Recognize his Former Self?"</p>
10/12-10/16	<p>Institutions Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism" Horowitz, "Comparing"</p>	<p>Institutions Lijphart, "Constitutional Choices of New Democracies" Linz, "Virtues of Parliamentarism"</p>	<p>Institutions Elgie, "Cohabitation: Divided Government French-Style"</p>

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	Democratic Systems”		
10/26-10/30	Ideology Grigsby, “Political Ideologies” Giddens, “Arnold Goodman Charity Lecture”	Political Economy of the Welfare State: UK Driver and Martell, “Labour and the Welfare State”	Political Economy of the Welfare State: UK Giddens, Hall, Gamble “Which Blair Project”
10/9-10/13	Political Economy of the Welfare State: Germany Karsten. “Eucken’s “Social Market Economy...” Dullien and Guérot, “The Long Shadow of Ordoliberalism”	Political Economy of the Welfare State: Germany Witt, “Germany’s “Social Market Economy: Between Social Ethos and Rent Seeking”	Test II or Paper Due
11/2-11/6	Political Culture I: Islam/Arab Culture and Democracy Lewis, “Historical Overview” (Of Islam) Stepan and Robertson, “An ‘Arab’ more than ‘Muslim’ Electoral Gap	Political Culture I: Islam/Arab Culture and Democracy Price. “Islam and Human Rights”	Political Culture II: Asian Values Lee Kuan Yew, “Culture is Destiny” Zakaria, “Asian Values”
11/9-11/13	Political Culture II: Asian Values Sen, “Human Rights and Asian Values” Dalton and Ong, “Authority Orientations and Democratic Attitudes: A Test of the “Asian Values” Hypothesis	Development Willis, “Introduction: What do we mean by development?”	Human Development O’Bannon, “The Narmada River Project: Toward a Feminist Model of Women in Development”
11/16-11/20	Security: New War Kaldor, “Introduction”	Security: New War Kaldor, “Bosnia-	Security: Electoral Violence

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		Herzegovina: A Case Study of a New War"	Bekoe, "Trends in Electoral Violence in Sub-Sharan Africa" Atuobi, "Election-Related Violence in Africa"
11/23	Human Security UNDP "Human Development Report 1994" (just pages 1-40)	Thanksgiving	Thanksgiving
11/30-12/4	Human Security Aoláin, "What Does Postconflict Security Mean for Women?"	Security - Development Nexus Stewart, "Development and Security"	Security - Development Nexus: Violent Conflict Leonard and Strauss, "Causes of Conflict"
12/7-12/11	Security - Development Nexus Leonard and Strauss, "Debt and Aid"; Righting the Incentives"	Posner, The Political Salience of Cultural Difference	Final reflections